

GUIDELINES FOR INPUT

NEBRASKA'S TITLE V/MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL APPLICATION

Federal Fiscal Year 2007 (October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007)

Background

Title V of the Social Security Act provides funds to States in the form of a block grant. The purpose of this block grant is to improve the health of all mothers and children. With these block grant funds, States are to do the following:

- Provide and assure mothers and children (in particular those with low income or with limited availability of health services) access to quality maternal and child health services;
- Reduce infant mortality and otherwise promote the health of mothers, infants and children through preventive and primary care services;
- Provide rehabilitation services for blind and disabled individuals under the age of 16 receiving benefits under Title XVI (Supplemental Security Income Program), when not provided under Title XIX (Medicaid); and
- Provide and promote family-centered, community-based, coordinated care including care coordination services, for children with special health care needs and to help develop community-based systems of services for such children and their families.

In order to receive these block grant funds, each State submits an application to the federal government. Nebraska Health and Human Services (NHHS) is in the process of preparing an application for the upcoming year. NHHS is asking for input from consumers, health care providers, and others. These guidelines are intended to assist you in making your comments.

A note to families

We welcome your comments in any form, and want to know more about the health care needs in your community as we make our future plans. These are guidelines only. If you receive these guidelines at the clinic where you receive health care, you can ask the clinic staff to send in your comments for you if you wish. If you need more information, or just want to learn more about the Title V/Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, feel free to write, call, or use the Internet. Our contact information is found later in these guidelines. If you need immediate assistance with your family's health care needs, please contact your local health care clinic or local Health and Human Services office. **Block grant funds are not available directly to individuals.**

A note to Providers, Organizations, and Agencies

The Office of Family Health asks for your assistance in gathering input from families:

- Ask your organization's consumer advisory board to submit comments directly to us.
- Actively involve your consumers/clients/patients in developing your organization's comments.
- Share these guidelines with your clients/consumers/patients, and assist them with preparing and sending in comments.

Providing Comments

First, you will see some abbreviations used frequently in these guidelines:

MCH = maternal and child health

CSHCN = children with special health care needs

FY = fiscal year; we use the federal fiscal year which starts October 1 and ends September 30. The numbering is always for the year that the period ends, so FY 2007 starts October 1, 2006 and ends September 30, 2007.

As Nebraska develops its Annual Application for FY 2007, we are asking for comments from families, providers, and organizations interested in the health of women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families. In particular, suggestions for activities to address priority needs are sought. Nebraska's identified priority needs are:

1. Reduce the rates of overweight women, youth, and children by increasing participation in sufficient physical activity and improving nutrition.
2. Reduce the percent of women of child-bearing age, particularly pregnant and post-partum women, and adolescents who use tobacco *and* reduce the percent of infants, children and youth exposed to second hand smoke
3. Reduce rates of premature and low birth weight births for all women, with attention to adolescent pregnancy.
4. Reduce the rates of hospitalizations and deaths due to unintentional injuries for children and youth.
5. Reduce the number and rates of child abuse, neglect, and intentional injuries of children.
6. Reduce the rates of infant mortality, especially racial/ethnic disparities.
7. Reduce alcohol use among youth.
8. Increase capacity of community-based medical home providers to detect and refer for treatment women, children, and youth with emotional and behavioral health conditions.
9. Increase capacity of Title V Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs to serve increased numbers of children meeting medical and financial eligibility criteria and who are uninsured or underinsured.
10. Build capacity of Title V programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs to provide transition medical and dental clinics for youth with special health care needs 14-21 years.

In preparing comments, consider these questions:

- In my community, what are the major health needs of mothers, infants, children, and adolescents?
- What services are in the community, that help meet those needs?
- What would further improve health care and make it easier to find?
- What barriers or gaps could be overcome through better coordination?

- How can Nebraska Health and Human Services best use Block Grant and other funds to promote the health of women, infants, children, adolescents, CSHCN, and their families?

Comments should be received by June 23, 2006, to assure review and consideration during the development of the application. The completed application will be available upon request on or after August 15, 2006. You may contact the Office of Family Health with comments or questions by:

- Mailing to: Office of Family Health, HHS, P.O. Box 95007, Lincoln, NE 68509-5007
- Faxing to: 402-471-7049
- Sending an e-mail to: family.health@hhss.ne.gov

Application Format and Content

To help you understand how your comments will be used, below is an outline and brief description of the annual Title V/Maternal and Child Health Block Grant application:

- Assessment of the State Title V Agency This section provides an overview of the State, its health characteristics, and the organization and capacity of the State Health Agency.
- Needs Assessment This section provides a comprehensive and prioritized assessment of statewide needs for services for pregnant women and infants; children; and children with special health care needs (CSHCN). This section also includes a list of State priority needs with a brief description of each. Nebraska's priority needs were identified in the FY 2006 application. A short list is found earlier in these guidelines. These priorities were identified during the most recent five-year statewide needs assessment completed in March 2005. Your comments will be helpful in clarifying these needs.
- Health Status Indicators This section reports on health status indicators, which are point-in-time measures. Specific goals or activities are not tied to these measures.
- Budget Justification This section outlines how the Block Grant funds will be spent according to federal requirements. These requirements stipulate that 30% of the funds be used for preventive and primary care services for children and at least 30% for services for CSHCN. No more than 10% may be used for administering the program.
- Performance Measures This section addresses National performance and outcome measures, as well as State performance measures. Each State must have targets set for each measure and planned program effort to meet those targets.
- The Annual Plan This section provides a detailed discussion on planned program activities that will address the State's priority needs and the National and State performance measures. It also describes service delivery to the 3 population groups (children, CSHCN, and pregnant women and infants). In addition, the State reports on how it will address core public health services at different levels. These levels are: direct services, enabling services, population-based services, and infrastructure. Your comments will be helpful in developing this plan.

Along with the annual application each state prepares an annual report for the year preceding the current year. Therefore, an annual report for FY 2005 will be prepared at the same time as the Annual Application for FY 2007.

Regulation & Licensure
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